

## Byron Hess, 79

*March 26, 1926 - Oct. 13, 2005*

**CASPER, WY** — Byron Eugene Hess was born March 26, 1926, in Harlan, son of Carroll L. and Alice M. Erickson Hess. He was a former Harlan and Brayton area resident. The family resided in Shelby County until 1939 at which time they moved to a farm in Audubon County. He was a 1944 graduate of Exira High School.

In 1948, he met Geneva E. "Jean" Miller in Rochester, MN, and they were married at the Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan. During the early years Byron worked as a truck driver and farmer, living in Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin. He moved his family to Casper, WY in 1963. After moving to Casper, he continued trucking with farming on the side. As a young man he learned to fly, and he and his brother, Charles, bought their own plane. In his leisure years, Byron continued farming and was a member of the Pony Express and Antique Tractor Club. He died Oct. 13, 2005, at his home in Casper, WY.

Byron was preceded in death by his parents, Carroll and Alice Hess; his brother, Charles; niece, Linda Hess; and grandson, Leeray Green. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jean; seven children, Rodney (Joyia), Casper, WY; Bonnie (Casper) Smith of Douglas, WY; Stanley (Karen); Doran (Mitzi), Craig Hess and Janice Morgan; James (Paula), all of Casper, WY; and Faye Gaitlin of Pampa, TX; 21 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Marlene Hess of Brayton; a niece, Jane (Larry) Swartz of Papillion, NE; and other relatives.

Cremation was performed. Memorial services were held Oct. 17, 2005, at the Evansville Christian Church in Casper, WY, with Pastor Merilyn Dunn officiating.